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# BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF  
M. E. CAMERON



OBSTETRIC AND GYNÆCOLOGIC NURSING. By Edward P. Davis, A.M., M.D., professor of obstetrics in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and in the Philadelphia Polyclinic; obstetrician to the Jefferson and Polyclinic Hospitals; obstetrician and gynæcologist to the Philadelphia Hospital. Second edition, revised. W. B. Saunders & Co., Philadelphia, New York, London.

A late addition to the catalogue of books on nursing and for nurses is this very smart and new edition of Dr. Davis's book, which comes to us in a most attractive and artistic binding of blue linen, and is well illustrated, although the illustrations are more conservative than we often find in books on this subject.

The dominant note of the book is the practical: the preservation of the mother's figure, the wardrobe of the child, the patient's getting up, diet, visitors—there are so many practical points noted that show a thoroughly sympathetic knowledge of the subject as the patient knows it—a putting yourself in her place one seldom finds or expects in the keen, businesslike attitude of the specialist of to-day. Another special feature is the directions, under various headings, to nurses overtaken by emergencies occurring in the doctor's absence. We all know how aggravating it is to have minute particulars of what the doctor's action will be when he does get there, and little or no advice of how to proceed without him. On this point Dr. Davis is particularly generous and helpful, reminding comfortably that nature is not apt to hurry towards trouble. The directions for preparing surgical supplies are very simple and clear and include many enlightening details; indeed, the book as a whole is notable for briefness and clearness, touching many points but dwelling long on none; in this respect it makes an excellent book for reference rather than for study. Dr. Davis's preface makes a generous acknowledgment of the assistance he has received from various sources. He says:

"In preparing this book much valuable help has been given by Miss Ellen V. Hayes, chief nurse of the Jefferson Maternity, and Miss Mary E. Englar, formerly clinic nurse. The dietary has been kindly furnished by Miss A. B. O'Laughlin, dietician in the Jefferson Medical College Hospital. The writer is indebted to Miss M. E. Smith, late chief nurse of

the Philadelphia Hospital, and Miss S. C. Hearle, directress for nurses in the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, for data regarding the preparation of surgical supplies. He has profited largely by the experience and practical suggestions of Miss Margaret Russell, for seven years chief nurse of the Jefferson Maternity."

Here are six women willing, for anything we know to the contrary, to let their efforts go to supplement and enrich the work of one man. Surely by the expenditure of thought and study on their own behalf they could give us something entirely their own. We need more books for nurses written by nurses. We want very much to see conditions reversed—the graceful acknowledgment of nurses to their teachers and superiors occupying the preface page of a book on special nursing. But in the meantime we are not ungrateful for what we have because we ask for more. Many nurses, both pupils and those in practice, will find in Dr. Davis's latest edition of his book what they have sought in vain for elsewhere, and it is likely to prove to many a perplexed nurse a help in time of need.

**GYNÆCOLOGICAL NURSING.** By Miss Netta Stewart, sister in the Extra-Mural Gynæcological Wards of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. William Wood & Company, New York.

It is with much pleasure that we welcome the American edition of Miss Stewart's book, which was reviewed in these pages at the time of its earlier English edition. May it prove to be an inspiration to some American "sister" in no way behind Miss Stewart either in experience or knowledge of her subject to give us a like book.

**THE STORY OF MY LIFE.** By Helen Keller. With Her Letters (1887–1901) and a Supplementary Account of her Education, Including Passages from Reports and Letters of Her Teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan. By John Albert Macy. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York.

A most astounding chronicle of triumphant and victorious patience is this story of Miss Keller's life, mostly from her own pen, although supplemented by notes from her teacher and some editorial and explanatory passages from Mr. Macy. One can't help hoping that the title is an error, that Miss Keller's life is yet before her, and that she may find that the time she has lived was not her life at all, only the preparation for life—her very difficult, complex school time. Miss Keller's sweet patience under her affliction, especially when that dreadful affliction which hid the whole world from her, but was not able to hide her from the world, brought to her, a tiny child, the cruel and unjustly suspicious